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Progress During the Year.

It is difficult to determine the relative value of events as they take place. This is as true of occurrences in the peace movement as elsewhere. We have, however, little reason to doubt that when time enough has passed to give a true perspective, the year just closing will rank as a very important one in respect of events marking the progress of the peace cause. Grounds for discouragement have certainly not been wanting. All know what they are, and how heavily they have weighed at times upon the minds of those who had believed that the civilized world was already safely past the possibility of such debasement. But, while evil has abounded, in intense and headstrong fashion, good has more abounded, and steadily and unremittingly pushed its way to the front.

The peace societies have never carried on a more active and vigorous campaign than during the past twelve months. Their number has increased until there are now, including branches, about four hundred and fifty of them. They have persisted in uttering their message, and in a direct and most practical way. They have made their protest not only against war in general, but they have not allowed censure, contempt or ridicule to drive them from expressing

their condemnation of the particular wars now disgracing the world.

Many important meetings, conferences and congresses have occurred in the twelvemonth. In France the most notable meeting ever held in the nation, with the exception of the international congresses, took place in February, when all the French members of the Hague Court were present and Mr. Léon Bourgeois, head of the French delegation to the Hague Peace Conference, presided.

The Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, now so powerful in its work in this country, never before had so large an attendance as at its session the last of May, and ten thousand copies of its report have been distributed to editors, public and college libraries, etc. Mr. Smiley decided this year for the first time to widen and strengthen this work by the employment of a permanent general secretary of the conference.

In July a peace congress of the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, was held at Skien, Norway. It was attended by forty-one delegates from Norway, thirty from Denmark, twenty-one from Sweden, and two from Finland. Among its resolutions, the most important was one urging an alliance for peace and arbitration of the three kingdoms of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and a declaration on their part of permanent neutrality.

In Italy an event of unusual promise was the recent interview granted by the young King, on his visit to Milan, to representatives of the Lombard Peace Union, the most powerful of the peace associations in the peninsula. The memorial presented to the King on this occasion we give in full in this issue. The reception accorded the representatives of the Union was most cordial, and King Victor Emanuel III. declared himself in hearty sympathy with the essential aims of the friends of peace in his country. Some really important step may reasonably be expected from him, we think, in the near future.

We need only mention in this connection the two congresses held at Glasgow during the course of the Exposition, the Twentieth International Law Conference and the Tenth International Peace Congress, reports of both of which have occupied so much of the space of our recent issues. The former was presided over by Lord Chief Justice Alverstone (formerly Sir Richard Webster), and the principal discussion of the entire three days was that on the question of international arbitration treaties as sup-

plementary to the Hague Convention. The Peace Congress, at which delegates from a dozen countries were present, continued its work for four days, covering with its discussions and resolutions all the most important phases of the question of peace and arbitration, and sending out at its close a strong appeal to the nations in behalf of concord and co-operation as the basis of all real prosperity. The reception of both these congresses by the city of Glasgow was most generous and appreciative.

In the political field the chief event of the year bearing upon the peace movement was of course the completion and proclamation to the world of the Hague Court. Quietly as the full-orbed sun rises, this greatest of the world's political institutions came officially into existence on the 9th of April, with judges from sixteen nations on its roster, and ready to take in hand any controversies, great or small, that might thereafter be referred to it. Since that date three other powers have chosen their members of the Court, making nineteen in all. It is questionable whether any year hereafter will see an essentially greater political event than this; it is certain that no previous one has seen its equal.

The second most significant occurrence in the line of peace in the international field was the meeting of the representatives of the nineteen American republics now assembled in the City of Mexico. With entire propriety this Congress may be called a peace congress. The two most prominent subjects before it are those of a general arbitration treaty and an American International Court of Claims, both of which have intimate relation to the peace and friendship of these nineteen states. It is pretty certain also, from present indications, that whatever may come of the great railway scheme and other projects before the Congress, the efforts made to devise an arbitration system and a general American Court of Claims will result successfully. This would be another attainment of the first order.

This sketch of the more salient features of the progress of the peace propaganda during the year might be filled in with very many interesting and impressive happenings of a less prominent character, which after all constitute the body of the movement and furnish even stronger ground for encouragement and hope. But what we have given is sufficient to show clearly that, after making due allowance for untoward events, the cause of peace has this year reached a position of permanency, strength and public confidence entirely beyond that of any previous time.

There is, to be sure, a long and difficult task before us, but we have abundant reason to feel profound gratitude and to go forward in our work with a triumphing faith that the abolition of war is certain to come and that the day is not far off.

Modern Diplomacy.

The most important word in regard to international affairs uttered by any public man recently was that of Secretary Hay, on diplomacy, at the annual banquet of the New York Chamber of Commerce, on the evening of November 19. It was an utterance greatly needed just now, and must have a world-wide influence, coming from a statesman of Mr. Hay's position, experience, wisdom and high ideals. There is probably not another living public man in any country who could have said, or would have said, as much at the present moment.

Those who have studied diplomacy, particularly American diplomacy, know that it has experienced a remarkable change in recent times. It was once, as Mr. Hay says, "an occult science, as mysterious as alchemy and as dangerous to morals as municipal politics." It was "a science of intrigue and falsehood, of traps and mines and counter-mines." It was, if not the chief source of wars, the chief instrument by which they were brought about and made to seem inevitable and justifiable.

To-day, in the matter of just, honorable and harmonious international relations, diplomacy — particular cases of woful failure aside — is on the whole permeated by a much better spirit and is really in advance of public sentiment. This is certainly true of American diplomacy, which in its hundred years and more of history has been a large part of the time in the hands of the ablest and truest of our statesmen, whose conceptions of political principles and obligations have been such as to make them incapable of the back-stairs' intrigues and base deceptions of the old diplomacy.

Mr. Hay declares that the record of American diplomacy, especially during the years of his personal acquaintance with it, has been one of frankness and sincerity. Still more significant is his assertion that during the time in which he has been prominently concerned in our foreign relations we have been met by the representatives of other powers in the same spirit of frankness and sincerity. This statement undoubtedly expresses the facts, and is, whether intended to be so or not, a rebuke to those of our citizens and public men who are continually manifesting suspicion towards foreign diplomats and statesmen, and mysteriously suggesting all sorts of sinister schemes on their part against our interests. Mr. Hay has been in a position to know how base and unworthy most of these insinuations have been.

In reference to our relations with the sister republics south of us, — the attitude at least which we ought to sustain toward them, — the Secretary's announcement is straight and true: "We no more want their territory than we covet the mountains in the moon. We are grieved and distressed when there are differences among them, but even then we should never